Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (currently amended) A machine-based method comprising

receiving historical multi-dimensional data representing multiple source variables to be used as an input to a predictive model of a commercial system,

assigning a status to each source variable, the status comprising the variable being a predictor primary variable or a transformed variable or having transformations applied in a variable definition field;

applying a first set of transformations to the source variables, the first set of transformations being ~~that are~~ selected to increase predictive power, and

applying a second set of transformations to the data, the second set of transformations being ~~that are~~ selected based on ~~the~~ strength of measurement represented by a variable.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which the strength of measurement comprises at least one of nominal[[,]] and ordinal~~, and interval~~.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the strength of a measurement is represented in stored metadata associated with the data.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 also including

displaying to a user a representation of a response function of a target variable against untransformed, transformed, and target variables associated with the data.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 also including

persistently storing both the source variables and related transformed versions of the source variables.

6. (previously presented) A machine-based method comprising

receiving historical multi-dimensional data representing multiple source variables having different strengths of measurement to be used as an input to a predictive model of a commercial system,

adjusting unstable values of the variables to reduce inaccurate associations between predictor variables and target variables.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 in which the adjustment of the unstable values comprises Bayesian renormalization.

8. (currently amended) A machine-based method comprising:

in connection with a project in which a user generates a predictive model based on historical data about a system being modeled, automatically imputing missing values for variables associated with the data[[,]] and ~~the variables having different strengths of measurement~~

using the imputed missing values in generating the predictive model.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 in which the user is enabled to invoke the automatic imputing as part of a user interface feature that displays information about variables for which values are missing.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 in which the automatic imputing is invoked based on a variable or type of variable.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 in which the variables for which missing values are imputed may be used in the model or may be transformed for use in the model.

12. (new) The machine-based method of claim 1 also includes typing the source variables based on the strength of measurement represented by each variable.

13. (new) The machine-based method of claim 12 in which typing the source variables comprises pooling the variables.

14. (new) The machine-based method of claim 1 in which the strength of measurement comprises interval.